

# **Integrated Cave Entrance Community and Cave Environment Long-Term Monitoring Protocol**

## **Appendix J: Preventing White Nose Syndrome**

**Version 1.0**

### **Revision History Log**

<b>Previous Version</b>	<b>Revision Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Changes Made</b>	<b>Reason for Change</b>	<b>New Version</b>

This document contains details on how to prevent the spread of white nose syndrome.

White Nose Syndrome is a relatively new threat to bats that is rapidly spreading across North America. The consequences of this threat could be devastating. In order to mitigate the spread of this syndrome, certain disinfection measures have been recommended by US Fish and Wildlife. Disinfection is critical if any gear has been used in a cave in an area that is known to be affected by the syndrome. In all other cases, disinfection should occur regularly according to the following guidelines:

- Remove all soil and organic material from boots, clothing, and equipment.
- Wash all clothing and any appropriate equipment in a washing machine using the hottest cycle possible for material and conventional detergents. Dry fully.
- Disinfect any equipment that can be submersed using either a 10% bleach solution or a quaternary disinfectant cleaner, rinse, and completely dry. This includes bags and storage containers for caving equipment.
- Disinfect any equipment that cannot be submersed by applying either a 10% bleach solution or 70% or greater isopropyl alcohol, rinse, and completely dry.
- Boots should be fully scrubbed and rinsed so that all soil and organic material is removed. The soles should be disinfected using either a 10% bleach solution or a quaternary disinfectant cleaner.
- Caution should be taken when disinfecting ropes and harnesses so that performance is not affected. Some manufacturers suggest using water with a temperature not to exceed 40°C for washing and rinsing, and then disinfection by soaking in quaternary ammonium compounds diluted in water not exceeding 20°C. Rinse and fully dry.
- When handling bats, wear disposable gloves over handling gloves and change gloves regularly.